

Application No. 09/317,409  
Amendment dated February 20, 2004  
Reply to Office Action dated November 25, 2003

### REMARKS

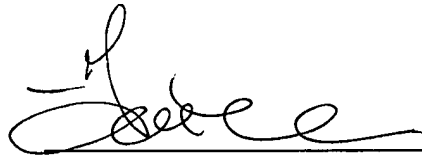
Claim 55 is amended to remove the language "in the absence of a tie down ply contacting the honeycomb core". A rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph of claim 55 for including this language was affirmed on appeal. Amendment of this claim to remove this language should therefore overcome this rejection.

Claim 55 is further amended for clarification purposes. Support for this amendment is found in the present specification on page 11, lines 30-34.

In view of the foregoing this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of claim 55 and 57-59 are thus earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner not yet consider this application in condition for allowance or have any question concerning this response, she is requested to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fran S. Wasserman', written over a horizontal line.

Fran S. Wasserman  
Registration No. 34,273

Cytec Industries Inc.  
1937 West Main Street  
P. O. Box 60  
Stamford, Connecticut 06904-0060  
Telephone No. (203) 321-2912  
Facsimile No. (203) 321-2971

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